




STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION  
DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES  
ANDREW JACKSON BUILDING, 15<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
500 DEADERICK STREET  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** July 10, 2007  
**TO:** Kathleen Clinton, John Craven, and C.J. McMorran  
**FROM:** Stephen H. Norris  
Deputy Commissioner   
**SUBJECT:** Clinical Services for Children Under Age 21

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This memo provides clarification regarding the review and approval process for the following waiver services for **children under 21 years of age**:

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech, Language, and Hearing Services
- Nutrition Services
- Nursing Services

Requests for the services listed above for children under age 21 are to be handled as outlined below:

1. If the service recipient **is currently approved** for the service, the waiver service can be approved for continuation when medically necessary and when provided in accordance with the waiver service definition. Since children will receive their clinical services through TennCare in the future, we will be working with TennCare to develop and implement an orderly plan to assess the need for services and to transition the children to EPSDT services. At the present time, however, it is not necessary to request the service through TennCare if the child is currently approved for the service.
2. If the service recipient **is not currently approved** for the service, the service recipient must request the service through TennCare. If the service is denied based on medical necessity, the service recipient has the right to appeal the denial. If the service is urgently needed, an expedited request can be submitted to TennCare. If the service is denied based on medical necessity, the service recipient has the right to an expedited appeal.
3. Independent Support Coordinators and Case Managers need to be able to explain that under federal Medicaid regulations, the Medicaid waiver is the payor of last resort and that all other reimbursement sources must be exhausted before the service can be covered through the Medicaid waiver.

SHN:wlm

cc: Fred Hix  
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